

An archive radio picture tells a story

By Bart Lee, K6VK, A CHRS Fellow in History

An archival amateur radio picture – a “found photograph” – follows:



W2NDL sometime after World War Two

Assistant Librarian Dave Harris reports:

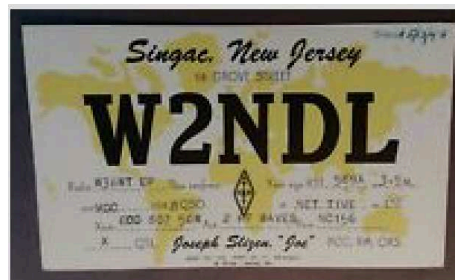
“Last week I looked up Joseph Slizen, amateur radio station W2NDL, as indicated below. His first listing in the Call Book was in Vol. 31, #4, Winter, 1953, in Singac, N.J. I found him listed in the Amateur Radio Call Directory Name Index, 1982-83 ed., as

well as the 1985-86 edition. He was as born in New Jersey in 1918. He held a Class A license for station W2NDL.

“The station was still listed to Slizen in Vol. 75, #1, 1997, but since we don’t have later Call Books I can’t say when/if he became a Silent Key. He’d be 101 now.”

ARRL on the 2019 A-1 Operators Club Roster lists W2NDL as Joe Slizen. Note both a straight key and a “bug” on the desk.

E-bay provides an image of his QSL card, and has offered for sale W2NDL cards dated 1948:



The card says he goes by “Joe” as his “handle,” and lists a National NC-156 as his primary receiver. (CHRS has at least one).



US Navy RBL from RadioBoulevard (= NC-156)

The W2NDL photo shows a typical post-war ham using military and civilian radio equipment. To the far left, two ex-Navy Collins equipments, a transmitter to the right of a receiver.

Collins Radio Equipped



HERE ARE A FEW of many types of the Navy's small craft which maintain communication with this Collins designed TCS radio transmitter and receiver combination. This equipment is so sturdy, handy and reliable, and packs so much power and sensitivity into so little space, that it finds numerous Naval applications ashore as well as afloat. Usually the

first radio installation on the beach-head, it is also standard on fire, rescue and crash trucks, and is often used on jeeps and command cars. The TCS is another example of the variety and quality of radio communication equipment Collins will be able to supply to industry after the war. Collins Radio Company, Cedar Rapids, Iowa; 11 West 42nd Street, New York 18, N. Y.

*Official U. S. Navy Photo



U.S. Navy Collins TCS-12 Transmitter

This suggests some Naval service by "Joe."

The transmitter has an antenna tuner on top of it, with an antenna lead. A homebrew power supply sits under them.

On the desk, sits a pre-war Meissner Signal Shifter DeLuxe.

It acts as a VFO for a homebrew transmitter atop it. CHRS displays one in the W6CF shack. This model is likely pre-war; production of the earliest version started in 1938.



The CHRS W6CF Meissner Signal Shifter DeLuxe

The transmitter sports its own tuning unit and the antenna leads are homebrew 600 ohm (+-) open-line. “Joe” put some technical talent to good use.

John Staples, W6BM identifies the tube in the transmitter as a type 813, widely available as war surplus at the time. Note also the war surplus headphones.

So, a single “found” photograph can tell quite a story. The key is in the callsign: W2NDL.

(de K6VK, 12 VII '19) ##